

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

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SR/ PAN: AMB. DWARD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

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FOR AMBASSADOR SCALI

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, PN

SUBJECT: SC MEETING IN PANAMA

REFERENCE: USUN 846

1. BRIEFING PAPERS REQUESTED IN SUBPARAGRAPHS A, B AND C
OF REFTEL ARE BEING HANDCARRIED TO PANAMA MARCH 14 BY ARA
OFFICER DENNIS MORISSEY.

2. PAPER REQUESTED SUBPARAGRAPH D IS TRANSMITTED BELOW.

3. UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN PANAMA

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POSITION PAPER

" STRATEGIC POSITION OF U. S. MILITARY ON QUARRY HEIGHTS"

A. ISSUE

PANAMA CHARGES THAT THE STRATEGIC POSITION OF THE U. S. MILITARY ON QUARRY HEIGHTS WHICH OVERLOOKS PANAMA CITY ENABLES THE U. S. TO MILITARILY DETERMINE CITY' S FUTURE.

B. U. S. POSITION (FOR POSSIBLE USE IN SC)

-- THE U. S. HAS NO INTEREST IN INTERVENING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PANAMA NOR IN USING ITS INSTALLATIONS IN THE ZONE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

-- QUARRY HEIGHTS IS A HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX. THERE ARE NO COMBAT INSTALLATIONS LOCATED ON IT.

-- THE PANAMANIAN APPEAR TO SEE A STRATEGIC VALUE IN QUARRY HEIGHTS. THE UNITED STATES HAS NO STRATEGIC INTEREST IN THE HILL AND ONLY LIMITED INTEREST IN IT AS A SITE FOR SOME COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT.

-- IT IS AN HISTORICAL ACCIDENT THAT THE U. S. CHOSE TO ERECT INSTALLATIONS ON THIS HILL. IT WAS THE ONLY HIGH GROUND AVAILABLE DURING A PERIOD WHEN THE AVOIDANCE OF SWAMPS AND LOW LANDS WAS PART OF A PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE PROGRAM.

C. TALKING POINTS (IN PRIVATE CORRIDOR TALKS)

SAME AS ABOVE, BUT IN ADDITION NOTE THAT:

-- THE U. S. FORCES IN THE ZONE ARE STATIONED THERE TO DEFEND THE CANAL AND NOT TO IMPOSE UPON PANAMA' S RIGHTS, SOVEREIGNTY, OR WELL- BEING.

-- IN FACT, ONLY THE MOTOR POOL AND THE POST HEAD-QUARTERS OVERLOOK PANAMA CITY. THE BULK OF THE INSTALLATIONS ARE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE HILL. INDICATIVE OF OUR LOW MILITARY INTEREST IN THE HILL IS THE FACT THAT ONLY ONE MILITARY POLICEMAN GUARDS THE GATE FACING PANAMA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CITY AND ONE GUARD IS STATIONED AT THE GATE AT THE OTHER

ENTRANCE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE HILL.

-- AT THE PRESENT MOMENT A PORTION OF THE HILL IS OCCUPIED BY A SIGN ERECTED AND SERVICED BY PANAMA TO ADVERTISE THE BOLIVARIAN GAMES.

D. MEDIA GUIDANCE

-- TRY TO AVOID COMMENTING ON SOUTHCOM AND QUARRY HEIGHTS HEADQUARTERS.

-- IF PRESSED USE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN " B " ABOVE FOR USE IN SECURITY COUNCIL AND, AS YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE, FROM " C." ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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